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REMARKS

Claims 24-77, 79-81 and 83-85 are present in subject application. Claims 1-23, 78 and 82 have been canceled by the herein amendment to the claims.

CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

Claims 1, 13, 24, 33, 51 and 69 have been objected to as containing informalities. Claims 1 and 13 have now been canceled. Claims 24, 33, 51 and 69 have been amended to delete informalities objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, applicant hereby petitions for withdrawal of objections to the claims.

35 USC 112

Claims 18-20, 36-38, 54-56 and 72-74 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 18-20 have now been canceled. Claims 36-38, 54-56 and 72-74 have now been amended to delete the offending subject matter and recite applicants' invention in a clear concise matter.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112 is hereby requested.

35 USC 103

Claims 1, 6-18, 21-23, 78 and 82 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cahn (USP 3,244,763) in view of Carnell et al. (USP 4,978,439). Claims 1, 6-18, 21-23, 78 and 82 have now been canceled by the herein attached amendment to the claims. Consequently, this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

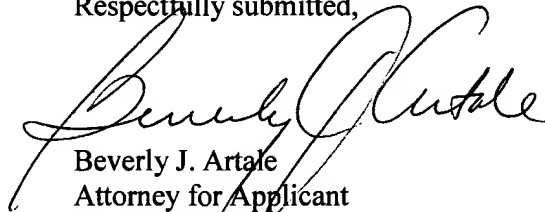
Claims 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cahn (USP 3,244,763) in view of Carnell et al. (USP 4,978,439) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Khare (USP 6,274,533). Claim 19 has now been canceled by the herein attached amendment to the claims. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Cahn (USP 3,244,763) in view of Carnell et al. (USP 4,978,439) and further in view of Podrebarac et al. (USP 6,303,020). Claim 20 has now been canceled by the herein attached amendment to the claims. Consequently, this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

For reasons as stated hereinabove, Applicant's invention is presented in a clear and concise manner and is fully supported by the specification as original filed. Accordingly, allowance of claim 36-49 of this application is hereby requested.

Applicants' have also enclosed herewith a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. None of the references disclosed in the attached Information Disclosure Statement disclose or teach a method of lowering the sulfur content of a naphtha hydrocarbon feed stream while substantially maintaining the yield of olefin compounds wherein the method employs a membrane as claimed by Applicants under pervaporation conditions.

Respectfully submitted,


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